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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY France

SUBJECT Specialists for Maurice Thorez

REPORT NO. 25X1A

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DATE (OF INFO.) 25 Nov 53

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- On 25 Nov 53 Auguste Lecoœur was informed by Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov that the Moscow Government had consented to allow Maurice Thorez to be visited and examined by two Soviet specialists in blood diseases, A. M. Lysenko and P. N. Repkin. Thorez experienced a very grave crisis early in Nov. 1953, but has made some slight recovery since.
- Opinion in the Politburo of the French Communist Party is divided as to the treatment of Thorez, now at Mougins in the French Alps. One wing of the Politburo, led by Etienne Fajon, is strongly opposed to having Thorez visited by Soviet specialists, as causing unnecessary alarm, and damaging the prestige of the French physicians now attending him. The other group, headed by Leon Mauvais, is in favor of sending Thorez to the USSR. This plan is opposed by Jeannette Vermeersch, Thorez's wife, who fears that his departure would bring a new outbreak of quarrels among the leaders of the French Party, and wreck the future of Jacques Duclos, who now holds his position only with Thorez's backing.
- It is generally felt in the party that during the critical stage of the fight against the ratification of EDC anything that might bring about trouble in the party should be avoided. It is probable that the visit of the Soviet specialists will eventually be accepted by the French Politburo.
- Thorez has not been informed of the struggle in the party leadership over his health, and is not even allowed to get all his correspondence. Even the reading of the party papers is carefully arranged for him by confidants of François Billoux, who is trying to eliminate Thorez's influence and take over the party leadership.

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